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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Third periodic report of States parties

Addendum

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

(The Virgin Islands)

(The Turks and Caicos Islands)

* For the initial report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, see CEDAW/C/5/Add.52 and Amend.1–4; for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.155, CEDAW/C/SR.156, CEDAW/C/SR.159 and CEDAW/C/SR.160, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/45/38), paras. 167–213. For the second periodic report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, see CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1; for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.223 and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/48/38), paras. 523–589. For the third periodic report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, see CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1.

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THIRD REPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

in respect of

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Introduction

1. The initial report in respect of the Virgin Islands was submitted in 1987 [1] and a second report in 1991[2]. This Report supplements, and covers the period since the submission of, those reports

2. This Report has been prepared in consultation with the authorities of the Virgin Islands.

Background

3. The population (1991 census) is at present 16,115, the majority (13,232) living on Tortola. The breakdown by sexes is:

	Male	Female
Total population	8,262	7,853
Tortola	6,738	6,494

4. Tourism remains the main industry. It contributes an estimated 45 per cent to the Islands' income, and is the largest employer with an estimated work force of 2,576. Financial services provide the other main contribution to the economy.

5. The Constitution has been amended since the initial report. The Legislative Council now consists of a Speaker, the Attorney General (ex officio) and 13 elected members. The Executive Council consists of the Governor, as chairman, a Chief Minister (who is appointed by the Governor as being the person best able to command a majority in the Legislative Council), three other ministers appointed from among the members of the Legislative Council, and the Attorney General (ex officio).

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[1] (CEDAW/C/5/Add.52/Amend.1)
[2] (CEDAW/C/UK/2/Amend.1)

The Convention

Article 2
Elimination of discrimination

The Women's Desk

6. As noted in the 1991 Report, a Women's Desk has been established in the Office of the Chief Minister; it became operational in October 1992. The terms of reference for the Desk include the promotion of women's economic welfare, the creation of a legal framework favourable to women, liaising with women's groups in the Territory, improving women's health, and ensuring that the Territory conforms to the Convention.

Law Reform Committee

7. A Law Reform Committee was established by the Chief Minister in November 1993 to identify the laws which affect women and the areas where legislation is needed, and to make recommendations. Members of the Committee include representatives from the Women's Desk, the Attorney General's Chambers and public and private sector agencies. The Committee has now produced its Report. After examining the laws of the Virgin Islands and drafts of various model laws produced by CARICOM, it makes 44 recommendations including recommendations on-

(a) the definition of rape and other sexual offences (including rape within marriage, sexual harassment, the age of consent to sexual intercourse and the age of capacity of boys); and the increase of criminal sanctions for such offences;
(b) the procedure and evidence in prosecutions for sexual offences and restrictions on identifying the parties in such prosecutions;
(c) domestic violence; and police procedure in such cases;
(d) abortion;
(e) marriage and divorce, including the presumption of death;
(f) harassment at work; and
(g) pensions legislation and domestic maintenance.

The Report has yet to be considered by the Government.

Police Family and Juvenile Unit

8. A Family and Juvenile Unit (with a staff of three) of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force was established in 1991 with responsibilities for issues which include rape and domestic violence (see paragraph 5.11 of the Initial Report and paragraphs 16 and 17 below). The Women's Desk has sponsored annual work shops for police officers to sensitise them to the issues surrounding physical and sexual abuse of women and seminars for policemen are proposed for 1997. The Women's Desk has also made attempts to start a men's group to address the issue of violence against women.

Proposals on sexual harassment

9. Complaints of sexual harassment do occur, particularly in disputes of unfair dismissal though there appears to be no agreement as to who should investigate such complaints. The Women's Desk has made proposals to the Labour Department to require employers to issue guidelines aimed at prohibiting sexual harassment at the workplace and to establish internal reporting and investigative procedures. It has also proposed the imposition of penalties for sexual harassment. The Law Reform Committee has also proposed that sexual harassment should be prohibited in a revised Labour Code. The Labour Code is in the process of being amended, and it is hoped to include sexual harassment in the amendments, using relevant ILO definitions.

Article 5
Elimination of prejudice and stereotyped roles

Advertisements

10. There is no advertisement code in the territory and advertisements which specify sex, such as "able-bodied handyman", "barmaids" and "salesgirls" are common. The Women's Desk is seeking to enlist the assistance of newspapers and the Labour Department in formulating an agreement to eliminate advertisements specifying the sex of the candidates.

Public awareness programmes

11. A public awareness programme has been initiated by the Women's Desk to provide information on physical and sexual abuse and challenging cultural prejudice which accepts violence against women. This includes full page advertisements in newspapers, pamphlets and radio programmes which address the problems of violence and its excuses. The Women's Desk has also sponsored community talks, which have been well attended, on the effect on relationships of violence and infidelity.

Pornography

12. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Small Charges Act (see paragraph 5.8 of the Initial Report), pornographic material is openly sold throughout the territory. Strip shows are not uncommon (the strippers usually being women from other Caribbean islands).

Family life education

13. Family life education is not part of the school curriculum. An informal survey among school teachers reveals that current textbook material perpetuates stereotyped roles for men and women.

Article 6

Sexual exploitation of women

Prostitution

14. The Government has sought to provide health education, particularly as regards STDs and AIDS, for known prostitutes, but there is no programme for reducing the incidence of prostitution.

15. There remains discrimination as regards the control of prostitutes. Under section 39(2) of the Small Charges Act, "a female [who] for the purposes of gain exercises control over the movement of a prostitute to....show that she is compelling her prostitution shall be guilty of an offence". No similar provision exists as regards men exercising such control.

Rape and other violence against women

16. The Initial Report drew attention to the problem of the common law presumption that a boy under the age of 14 is incapable of committing rape. The law also establishes a three months limitation on reporting of sexual offences. There are also problems which arise from the requirement of corroboration in rape cases and the cross examination of complainants in court on their sexual history, which can have the effect of reducing the number of complaints of rape to the police. In 1996, there were nine cases of rape and one case of attempted rape reported to the police; the investigation in eight cases resulted in six persons being charged. The Law Reform Committee make extensive recommendations in this connection

17. In 1996 there were 86 reports of domestic violence. Usually, at the request of the complainant, few of such complaints result in charges being brought; a six month limitation period also has an adverse effect. The Family Support Network, a non-profit making, non-Government group, has established an office and safe house to assist women and children in need, particularly the victims of domestic abuse. In addition, counselling services are available through the Mental Health and Social Development Departments.

Article 7

Political and public life

Elections

18. The Initial Report set out the equality of men and women as regards voting and standing for election. Women have stood for election in the last six elections to the Legislative Council, but it was only in the 1995 elections that two women became the first women to be elected; one of the two is now a member of the Executive Council as Minister for Health, Education and Welfare. The current Attorney General, who is an ex officio member of both Executive and Legislative Councils, is also a woman.

19. Women have a prominent role in the middle and upper levels of the public service and on public decision making and advisory bodies. Three of the four permanent secretaries are women as are the Elections Officer and the Chief Personnel Officer; women head approximately half of all government departments and, for example, four of the senior law posts (in addition to the Attorney General) are held by women. The Social Security Board is chaired by a woman and the Director and Deputy Director of that Board are also women. Women head the Ports Authority and the National Parks Trust as chairwomen and hold senior positions in each of the four banks, one as Bank Manager. Approximately one third of the registered doctors in the Territory are women and the nursing service is female dominated.

20. There are a number of trade unions in the Territory of which the BVI Teachers Union is the most active. The President of the Teachers Union is a woman and approximately 80 per cent of the members are women. Approximately 90 per cent of the teaching services are female. However, attempts to recruit into unions low-income women, many of whom are migrants, have been unsuccessful.

Article 10

Education

21. Appendix 1 sets out the school and university population for both males and females and Appendix 2 the education indicator of the whole population.

22. Girls have access to all levels of education and all institutions are co-educational. There remains some stereotyping with girls following a home economics track and boys one for carpentry, electrical engineering or mechanics. Girls who go on to tertiary education are less likely to go on to fields which require chemistry or mathematics; the ten engineering scholarships awarded by the Government in 1993 all went to boys. There are no programmes or directives to eradicate this.

23. There are only limited educational facilities for pregnant teenagers. If the girl is in the fifth form, the last form in high school, she is allowed to complete her year and take her school leaving exams. If, however, she is in a lower form she is expelled. (Statistics from the Development Planning Unit indicate that between 9 and 11 per cent of all births at Peebles Hospital in a given year are to girls under the age of 19 and one in fifteen women give birth by the time they are 19). Family planning services are

available in the Territory, but are not often used by teenagers who are apprehensive of the absence of confidentiality in a small community.

Article 11

Employment

24. Employment indicators, by sex, as disclosed in the 1991 Census,are set out in Appendix 3.

25. Women's participation in the labour force increased from 38.5 per cent in 1980 to 43.3 per cent in 1991. Female unemployment over the same period declined from 6.2 to 3.1 per cent; 47 per cent of the female labour force is employed as service and sales workers. Only 3.3 per cent of working women were employed in production or related industries as compared with 42.5 per cent of the male labour force. In general, the majority of women are employed as secretaries, sales clerks, waitresses and other elementary jobs. There is concern about the conditions of work of migrant women workers, many of whom work two shifts or at two jobs, with consequent concern about their health. It is alleged that some women workers are penalised for taking time off to visit doctors which is in contravention of the Labour Code.

26. In June 1994, the minimum wage was raised from $1.25 per hour to $3 per hour. Domestic workers, usually immigrant women, are most likely to be paid at the minimum wage. On average, women from other Caribbean islands make approximately $700 per month while BVI women make $1,092. This is to be compared with the average wage of men from other Caribbean islands of $1,033 per month and BVI men of $1,237 per month and western men in high-skilled jobs of $2,422 per month. There is no evidence, however, that women with the same qualifications are paid less in the same jobs as men.

Article 12

Access to health care

27. There is no evidence of discrimination against women in access to health care. Maternal, child health and family planning services are provided by the Ministry of Health, including ante-natal, labour and post-natal health care services and family planning education services; (the rate of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies, particularly among young women, is believed to be high, but no data exists).

28. The Women's Desk and the Ministry of Health have given priority to educate women in the risk of HIV/AIDS and other STDs utilising all forms of the media. The Sexual Health Programme of the Ministry of Health has established epidemiological surveillance and programmes to prevent sexual transmission, perinatal transmission and transmission through blood or blood products. An AIDS Speakers Bureau has been established to assist in raising awareness amongst the Community and the Health Authorities can provide prior counselling for persons requiring the HIV antibody test. Obstacles to these programmes are the toleration of male infidelity, a reluctance

to be tested on-island for fear of a breach of confidentiality and women's inability to control their sexuality, for example, by insisting on the use of condoms. As of December 1996:

Reported cases	Total	Males	Females	Unknown
HIV	41	24	12	5
AIDS	15	9	6	
Deaths from AIDS	12	8	4.	

29. Life expectancy at birth is 72.9 for males and 74.9 for females. The crude death rate in 1995 was 5.83 for males and 3.1 for females.

30. Procuring a miscarriage is unlawful within the Territory (though no prosecutions have been brought in recent memory). Abortion is illegal but is available to women from the Territory in the United States Virgin Islands. The Law Reform Committee has made recommendations for the legalization of abortion.

Article 13

Family benefits, recreation and culture

31. There is no general recognition in legislation of common law marriages, but an amendment to the Pensions Act in 1994 entitles the surviving member of a couple who have lived together as husband and wife to survivor's benefits. Social security legislation similarly recognises such persons as spouses.

32. As regards recreation, women are taking an increasing role in musical activities. They were members of two of the four bands in the "brass-o-rama" competition in August 1995, they fully participate in the BVI Community Band and the police marching band and in high school bands. They predominate in choirs and small singing groups.

Article 14

Rural Women

33. A distinction between urban and rural women has little significance within the Territory. There are, however, distinctions between the facilities available on Tortola and those in the more sparsely inhabited other islands. In the latter, medical facilities (in addition to a nurse) are only available on a part-time or visiting basis. There is no evidence that this leads to any discrimination between men and women.

Article 15

Equality in law

34. There is no legal aid system in the Territory. This affects both men and women, but it could disadvantage women who may be deterred from seeking divorce or legal separation on account of the level of legal fees.

Article 16

Marriage and the family

35. In December 1994, the age of majority was lowered from 21 to 18 with the result that persons of both sexes over the lower age are now able to marry without their parents consent and to contract and hold property. An amendment to the Marriage Act in 1994 raised the age at which it is lawful to marry (with parents' consent) from 14 to 16, making the lawful marriage age the same as the age at which a woman may lawfully consent to sexual relations.

36. Observation indicates that the major responsibility for the home and children still rests with women. It should be noted that in any given year, the number of children born to unmarried mothers outnumbers those born to married mothers. In such cases, should the father die intestate, the unmarried mothers and children may not have any share in the deceased's property. A new Bill has been drafted to equalise the status of children, whether born within a marriage or outside one.

37. There has been no change in the status of women as "belongers" from that reported in the initial report.

January 1998

APPENDIX 1

Population attending school full time by sex, type of school/university in the British Virgin Islands, 1993

Age	Type of School/University									
	Male					Female				
	Infant	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary (College)	Total	Infant	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary (College)	Total
<5 years	26	-	-	-	26	25	-	-	-	25
5 years	139	9	-	-	148	133	10	-	-	143
6 years	159	8	-	-	167	132	12	-	-	144
7 years	71	104	-	-	175	49	129	-	-	178
8 years	14	137	-	-	151	11	128	-	-	139
9 years	3	159	-	-	162	-	128	-	-	128
10 years	-	150	-	-	150	-	141	-	-	141
11 years	-	141	4	-	145	-	123	12	-	135
12 years	-	126	40	-	166	-	80	68	-	148
13 years	-	59	72	-	131	-	54	95	-	149
14 years	-	56	84	-	140	-	26	96	-	122
15 years	-	3	96	1	100	-	1	118	2	121
16 years	-	-	84	5	89	-	-	111	17	128
17 years	-	-	73	19	92	-	-	66	30	96
18 years	-	-	60	10	70	-	-	34	31	65
19 years	-	-	20	12	32	-	-	15	25	40
=> 20 years	-	-	12	143	155	-		2	339	341
Total	412	952	545	190	2,099	350	832	617	544	2,343

APPENDIX 2

Education Indicator by Gender, 1991

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Attending School						
Yes	2033	24.6%	2060	26.2%	4093	25.4%
No	6230	75.4%	5793	73.8%	12023	74.6%
Total	8263	100.0%	7853	100.0%	16116	100.0%
Education Level						
None	676	8.2%	678	8.6%	1354	8.4%
Kindergarden	256	3.1%	248	3.2%	504	3.1%
Primary	3574	43.3%	2873	36.6%	6447	40.0%
Secondary	2675	32.4%	2956	37.6%	5631	34.9%
Pre-University	324	3.9%	338	4.3%	662	4.1%
University	653	7.9%	684	8.7%	1337	8.3%
Other	92	1.1%	72	.9%	164	1.0%
Not Stated	13	.2%	4	.1%	17	.1%
Total	8263	100.0%	7853	100.0%	16116	100.0%
Degree Earned						
None	4870	67.4%	4202	61.3%	9072	64.4%
School-Leaving	610	8.4%	591	8.6%	1201	8.5%
Cambridge	26	.4%	25	.4%	51	.4%
O-Levels						
GCE-CXC	384	5.3%	636	9.3%	1020	7.2%
O-Levels GCE	33	.5%	25	.4%	58	.4%
High-School	99	1.4%	100	1.5%	199	1.4%
Diploma	178	2.5%	184	2.7%	362	2.6%
Degree	495	6.9%	478	7.0%	973	6.9%
Other	512	7.1%	589	8.6%	1101	7.8%
Not Stated	19	.3%	21	.3%	40	.3%
Total	7226	100.0%	6851	100.0%	14077	100.0%
Standard Reached						
First Grade	353	9.9%	307	10.7%	660	10.2%
Second Grade	266	7.4%	220	7.7%	486	7.5%
Third Grade	368	10.3%	277	9.6%	645	10.0%
Forth Grade	473	13.2%	358	12.5%	831	12.9%
Fifth Grade	939	26.3%	678	23.6%	1617	25.1%
Sixth Grade	378	10.6%	321	11.2%	699	10.8%
Seventh Plus	735	20.6%	680	23.7%	1415	21.9%
Not Stated	62	1.7%	32	1.1%	94	1.5%
Total	3574	100.0%	2873	100.0%	6447	100.0%

APPENDIX 3

Employment Indicators by Gender, 1991

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Activity Last Week						
Worked	4750	98.0%	3636	97.9%	8386	97.9%
Had Job	99	2.0%	77	2.1%	176	2.1%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Labour Status						
Employed	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Work Status						
Part-time	364	7.5%	506	13.6%	870	10.2%
Full-time	4238	87.4%	3088	83.2%	7326	85.6%
Not Stated	247	5.1%	119	3.2%	366	4.3%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Occupation Classification						
LegislatorsAndManagers	476	9.8%	332	8.9%	808	9.4%
Professionals	310	6.4%	269	7.2%	579	6.8%
Asst Professionals	458	9.4%	414	11.2%	872	10.2%
Clerks	187	3.9%	810	21.8%	997	11.6%
SalesAndServices	478	9.9%	1045	28.1%	1523	17.8%
Gardeners	255	5.3%	8	.2%	263	3.1%
Craft and Related	1649	34.0%	105	2.8%	1754	20.5%
Industry	426	8.8%	15	.4%	441	5.2%
Elementary	601	12.4%	708	19.1%	1309	15.3%
Not Applicable	9	.2%	7	.2%	16	.2%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Broad Occupational Classification						
High Skilled	786	16.2%	601	16.2%	1387	16.2%
Semi-Skilled	458	9.4%	414	11.2%	872	10.2%
Low Skilled	3596	74.2%	2691	72.5%	6287	73.4%
Not Applicable	9	.2%	7	.2%	16	.2%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%

Employment Indicators by Gender, 1991

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Sector Classification						
Agriculture	86	1.8%	9	.2%	95	1.1%
Fishing	71	1.5%	1	.0%	72	.8%
Mining	19	.4%	3	.1%	22	.3%
Manufacturing	357	7.4%	136	3.7%	493	5.8%
ElectricityGasWater	129	2.7%	22	.6%	151	1.8%
Construction	1129	23.3%	32	.9%	1161	13.6%
WholesaleRetail	513	10.6%	580	15.6%	1093	12.8%
HotelRestaurant	773	15.9%	1050	28.3%	1823	21.3%
TransportCommunication	464	9.6%	168	4.5%	632	7.4%
Financial	92	1.9%	232	6.2%	324	3.8%
Real Estate	354	7.3%	252	6.8%	606	7.1%
Public Administration	512	10.6%	301	8.1%	813	9.5%
Education	73	1.5%	248	6.7%	321	3.7%
HealthSocial Welfare	50	1.0%	205	5.5%	255	3.0%
Other Social	115	2.4%	141	3.8%	256	3.0%
Private Households	82	1.7%	312	8.4%	394	4.6%
Not Applicable	30	.6%	21	.6%	51	.6%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Grouped Monthly Income						
1-250	31	.6%	126	3.4%	157	1.8%
250-500	234	4.8%	686	18.5%	920	10.7%
500-750	1540	31.8%	956	25.7%	2496	29.2%
750-1000	732	15.1%	746	20.1%	1478	17.3%
1000-1500	636	13.1%	543	14.6%	1179	13.8%
1500-2000	996	20.5%	401	10.8%	1397	16.3%
2000-3000	364	7.5%	144	3.9%	508	5.9%
3000-4000	106	2.2%	36	1.0%	142	1.7%
4000-5000	54	1.1%	14	.4%	68	.8%
5000plus	58	1.2%	12	.3%	70	.8%
Not Stated	98	2.0%	49	1.3%	147	1.7%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%
Broad Grouped Monthly Income						
Low Income	1805	37.2%	1768	47.6%	3573	41.7%
Mid Income	2364	48.8%	1690	45.5%	4054	47.3%
High Income	582	12.0%	206	5.5%	788	9.2%
Not Stated	98	2.0%	49	1.3%	147	1.7%
Total	4849	100.0%	3713	100.0%	8562	100.0%

Employment Indicators by Gender, 1991

	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Count	Col %
	Count	Col %	Count	Col %		
Activity Last Week						
Worked	4750	78.6%	3636	64.0%	8386	71.5%
Had Job	99	1.6%	77	1.4%	176	1.5%
Looked Work	157	2.6%	112	2.0%	269	2.3%
Wanted Work	29	.5%	18	.3%	47	.4%
Home Duties	113	1.9%	1048	18.4%	1161	9.9%
Attended School	364	6.0%	405	7.1%	769	6.6%
Retired	290	4.8%	160	2.8%	450	3.8%
Disabled	98	1.6%	117	2.1%	215	1.8%
Other	133	2.2%	105	1.8%	238	2.0%
Not Stated	13	.2%	6	.1%	19	.2%
Total	6046	100.0%	5684	100.0%	11730	100.0%
Labour Status						
Employed	4849	80.2%	3713	65.3%	8562	73.0%
Unemployed	186	3.1%	130	2.3%	316	2.7%
Non-Labour Force	998	16.5%	1835	32.3%	2833	24.2%
Not Stated	13	.2%	6	.1%	19	.2%
Total	6046	100.0%	5684	100.0%	11730	100.0%

THIRD REPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

in respect of

THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Introduction

1. The initial report in respect of the Turks and Caicos Islands was submitted in 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.52/Amend.4) and the second periodic report in 1991 (CEDAW/C/UK/2/Amend.1). This Report supplements those reports.

2. This Report has been prepared in consultation with the authorities of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Background

3. The Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands was amended in 1993 creating an additional (sixth) office of Minister and transferring the functions of the former Financial Secretary to a minister.

4. Tourism continues to attract visitors to the Islands; recent tourist arrival figures are:

1994: 71,652
1995: 78,957
1996: 87,794.

5. The GDP over the past three years was:

1994: US$ 88 million
1995: US$ 93 million
1995: US$ 101 million.

Specific information which relates to the Convention

Article 5
Elimination of prejudices and stereotyped roles

6. Progress has been made in placing Guidance Counsellors in the High School System to provide family life education. However, there is still a need to place such a counsellor in the fastest growing high school (Provinciales) where many social problems are to be encountered and the social environment lends itself to discrimination against women.

Article 6
Sexual exploitation of women

7. Statistics for crimes against women during the years 1990 to 1996 are as follows :

Offence	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	8	6	15	9	5	1	-
Assault on female	2	-	1	-	-	1	1
Rape	-	1	2	2	3	3	3
Attempted rape	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Assault with intent to rape	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Indecent assault	-	-	-	-	2	3	8
Carnal knowledge	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
Incest	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Murder	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

8. There are no shelters for battered women and , having regard to the small numbers involved, it is questionable whether there is a case for establishing one. There are no counsellors assigned to the courts to counsel victims and perpetrators of violence within the home.

Article 7
Political and Public Life

9. The Chief Secretary, who is the head of the Civil Service and an appointed member of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council,is a woman. Two of the elected members of the Legislative Council are women and both held office as ministers in the previous Government of the Islands.

10. Women continue to be well represented in the civil service. At present they account for approximately half of the public service. Two Permanent Secretaries are women as are 19 heads and four deputy heads of departments. Nine of the ten heads of primary schools and one of the four heads of secondary schools are women; so too is the Principal of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College.

Article 9
National status

11. Under amendments to the Immigration Ordinance made by the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 1997, the spouse of a person who has the status of as a "belonger" in the Turks and Caicos Islands, may, if married to him for not less than five years and not legally separated, herself be granted a certificate of belonger status, and the widow of a deceased permanent resident may, if she was named on his permanent resident's certificate, be granted such a certificate in her own right and be entitled to have the name of a dependent child included on the certificate. Such a certificate would, in the first place, be subject to the condition that the applicant should not engage in any gainful occupation. However, an application may be made to the Governor to vary the condition.

Article 10
Education

12. The statistics for school enrolment for the year 1996 /97 are set out in the Annex to this report.

13. The following Government scholarships for tertiary level education and training were awarded for 1997:

FULL AWARDS	
AREAS OF SPECIALISATION	
Teaching	12
Hospitality Management	1
Accounts	3
Electrical/Structural Engineering	2
Business Management	2
Architecture	1
Medicine	1
Nursing	1
TOTAL	23

PARTIAL AWARDS	
AREAS OF SPECIALISATION	
Business Administration	3
Accounts	2
Computer technology	1
TOTA L	6

TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS: 29

Article 11
Employment

14. The National Insurance (Benefit) Regulations were amended in 1994. The amendment provides, among other things, for the payment of sickness benefit or maternity benefit when a person is temporarily absent from the Islands for the purpose of receiving treatment in connection with pregnancy. Previously such entitlement would only arise if the treatment was "special". Now entitlement arises for any treatment in connection with pregnancy.

15. Between 1990 and 1994, there were two claims by women for unfair dismissal, but in neither case was there an allegation of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination. There is one further case of alleged unfair dismissal of a woman outstanding.

ANNEX

SCHOOL ENROLMENT
SEPTEMBER 1996 to JULY 1997

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT

AGES YEARS	SEX MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 4	7	4	11
4	92	76	168
5	108	98	206
6	116	113	229
7	114	131	245
8	127	91	218
9	126	130	256
10	110	106	216
11	91	97	188
12	32	21	53
TOTAL	923	867	1790

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT

AGES YEARS	SEX MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
11	14	17	31
12	58	82	140
13	104	100	204
14	103	102	205
15	102	89	191
16	83	68	151
17	11	18	29
18	10	3	13
19	0	5	5
TOTAL	485	484	969

PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

AGES YEARS	SEX MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 4	117	122	239
4	28	29	57
5	44	36	80
6	30	30	60
7	26	28	54
8	13	10	23
9	8	11	19
10	11	7	18
11	5	9	14
12	5	4	9
13	1	1	2
14	0	1	1
15	2	0	2
16	1	1	2
TOTAL	291	289	680

PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL

AGES YEARS	SEX MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
11	2	4	6
12	7	10	17
13	1	5	6
14	7	4	11
15	1	3	4
16	2	0	2
TOTAL	20	26	46

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